

and can tailor their plan to their specific needs. The Act also encourages the involvement of private sector entities and promotes innovative financing.

Mr. Speaker, the NAHASDA reauthorization bill will build upon the success of the past five years by providing more housing development on our nation's Indian reservations. The amendments included in the bill help to streamline the Act to make it more user-friendly and also further emphasize the self-determination aspect of the Act. Housing is the backbone of economic and community development. It creates jobs and drives tribal economies. It is a basic need that can strengthen progress in other areas like education and health care, too.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman J. D. HAYWORTH for his dedication to Native American issues, and for working so diligently toward the passage of this bill. It is my hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill for what it is—a renewed commitment to the well-being of the Native American people of this nation. Thank you.

CALLING FOR AN END TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF REF- UGEES

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 349 that I introduced earlier this year to call attention to the terrible exploitation that has occurred within the refugee camps in West Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Since this legislation was introduced, some progress has been made in resolving the matter of sexual abuse of refugee women and girls living in UNHCR camps.

According to a recent letter I received from the Washington Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a number of new procedures have been introduced by that organization to take preventive action. New guidelines have been set for field staff in Africa and in other regions of the world. UNHCR has stated "there is absolutely no place in the humanitarian community for those who exploit others," and emphasizes the need for strict adherence to a 'zero-tolerance' policy.

It also is important to note that the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services has carried out more than 250 interviews in the field on this matter and will issue its report to the U.N. General Assembly during this year's session.

However, Mr. Speaker, despite these efforts, much more work is needed to resolve the existing problem. The matter of sexual abuse of women and children remains a real threat, especially for those who have already been dispossessed from their homelands and who face uncertain futures as refugees.

On this issue, we now know that the lives of refugee women and their children are at stake. The poor quality of life in many refugee settings can lead to sexual violence, abuse and harassment of children.

This is what appears to have occurred in the refugee camps located in Sierra Leone,

Guinea and Liberia and now Zimbabwe and possibly elsewhere. Young girls are defenseless in the face of such exploitation and therefore we must be their champions wherever such evil is found in the world.

It is appalling that local aid workers of international and local humanitarian agencies and NGOs, and even perhaps some members of peacekeeping forces, have been accused of carrying out this sexual exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, my Resolution commends the Secretary General of the United Nations for his forthright stand on this matter and expresses support for the comprehensive investigation that he launched to look into this scandalous situation. When I and several other Members of the Women's Caucus met with Mr. Annan in New York in April, he expressed his deep appreciation for our concern and indicated that, along with the global U.N. investigation underway, he believed that more women should help manage these camps to avoid future exploitation.

Part of the lack of protection of refugee children's rights comes from too little money. Although the United States contributes about 22 per cent of the budget of UNHCR, the funding from all donors is inadequate. Increased resources are a must if better physical protection is to be made available for women and their children. These refugee settlements are often large operations and are quite complex to run.

Due to decreased funding, UNHCR and its NGO partners have had to cut staff and drop supervision of many services. This has led to the U.N.'s guidelines on protecting refugee women and child rights not being fully implemented. Obviously, we must strive to commit more funding to U.N. agencies dealing with refugees, so that the camps become a less dangerous environment for women and children.

My measure also calls on the President to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the well-being and human rights of women and girls as well as to review under USAID and the Department of Agriculture, the distribution of U.S. food assistance to refugee communities around the world.

We cannot allow girl children to become sexual pawns because they do not have enough food to eat. This situation really should not be tolerated. It is distressing that many girls feel compelled to exchange sexual favors for food because their food rations cannot last a month and their families go hungry. This lack of sufficient food is something that the American people would want to do something about.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that it was important to highlight this issue and to show that our Government takes the matter of abuse of human rights seriously wherever it is found. The President must affirm this principle on the part of the American people. Hopefully, the final report of the U.N. investigation will make recommendations about the disciplining of those who sexually exploit children. I firmly believe that prompt action must be taken to bring those who have brought shame upon the honorable profession of giving service to refugees—the dispossessed of the earth—to full account.

Mr. Speaker, we are now facing a serious food crisis in southern and eastern Africa. Famine is ravishing these countries along with the AIDS pandemic. A large proportion of ref-

ugee women and children are suffering as a result. We must do all that we can to help protect them from any form of exploitation—sexual or otherwise that can arise from their vulnerable situation. I urge passage of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KEWEENAW NA- TIONAL HISTORIC PARK ON ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an important part of the economy, culture and education of the Copper Country of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Keweenaw National Historic Park on its tenth anniversary.

Keweenaw National Historic Park became a reality on October 27, 1992 when Public Law 102-543 was signed into law by President George Herbert Walker Bush. The park's creation was first mentioned in 1971. The effort began in earnest in 1982 and culminated with the establishment of America's three hundred sixty sixth national park ten years ago.

The twin purposes in establishing the park were preserving the nationally significant historical cultural sites and structures on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations; and to interpret the historical synergism between the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate the story of copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula and the entire nation.

Seventeen cooperating sites comprise the Keweenaw National Historic Park. Each separate site tells a different part of the story of the Copper Country's significant role in the American Industrial Revolution. Coupled with the area's natural beauty, the park draws more and more visitors each year.

The park has been growing in assets and visitors year by year and during the tenth anniversary celebration the Keweenaw National Historic Park Headquarters will be dedicated. The park headquarters will be located in a one hundred five year old office building, that formerly served as the Calumet & Hecla (C&H) Company's general office building. Refurbishing efforts are currently underway at two former mining related sites, the C&H library, that will serve as the Keweenaw History Center and at an old union hall. These sites and the fourteen other cooperating park sites tell the unique story of the copper miners' (many from foreign countries) migration to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in a sociological and historical context.

The idea of bringing curious historical visitors to the area has been accepted by the public and private sectors of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The coalition of area residents and businesses foresaw the educational benefits that accurate historic preservation would provide to residents and visitors alike. Commemorating and interpreting the history of hard rock mining in the Keweenaw has provided an economic boom to the area not seen since the boom days of the Calumet & Hecla and Quincy Mining Companies.